

Serial No. 10/615,568

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

1           **1. (Currently Amended)** Multi-bridge for use in a network that contains a  
2   plurality of subnetworks, wherein the multi-bridge comprises:  
3           for each subnetwork a set of at least two ports,  
4           the multi-bridge being operable to ~~register~~ record which of the ports  
5   are used by a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN), wherein the multi-bridge is  
6   arranged to forward a data packet which is sent with an identifier that identifies  
7   the VLAN to those of the ports that the VLAN is registered to use,  
8           wherein the multi-bridge is operable to ~~register~~ record in a register  
9   upon receiving a data packet by one of the at least two ports of a particular set,  
10   that the VLAN identified by the identifier of the data packet uses the ports of the  
11   particular set, at least when the multi-bridge has not yet registered recorded that  
12   the VLAN identified by the identifier of the data packet uses the particular set on  
13   which the data packet was received.

1           **2. (Original)** Multi-bridge according to claim 1, wherein the multi-bridge is  
2   further operable to de-register on the at least two ports of each set that is  
3   different from the set of which one of the at least two ports has received the data  
4   packet, if needed, the VLAN over which that data packet is sent.

1           **3. (Original)** Multi-bridge according to claim 2, wherein the multi-bridge is  
2   further operable to provide an alarm signal if within a predetermined time span  
3   and by a predetermined number of times one VLAN is successively registered  
4   and de-registered on one set.

1           **4. (Currently Amended)** Method for allocating a Virtual Local Area  
2   Network (VLAN) to one set out of a number of such sets on a multi-bridge,  
3   wherein each set comprises at least two ports for a subnetwork out of a plurality

**Serial No. 10/615,568**

3

4 of such subnetworks which share the multi-bridge, wherein the method  
5 comprises:  
6 sending to one of the at least two ports of a set a data packet over a  
7 VLAN; and  
8 ~~registering~~ recording in a register the VLAN over which the data  
9 packet is sent on each of the at least two ports of the set of which one of the at  
10 least two ports has received the data packet.

1 **5. (Previously Presented) Method** according to claim 4, characterised in  
2 that, the method further comprises:  
3 de-registering on the at least two ports of each set that is different  
4 from the set of which one of the at least two ports has received the data packet, if  
5 needed, the VLAN over which that data packet is sent.

1 **6. (Original) Method** according to claim 4, wherein the method  
2 comprises:  
3 providing an alarm signal if within a predetermined time and by a  
4 predetermined number of times one VLAN is successively registered and de-  
5 registered on one set

1 **7. (Original) Network** comprising a multi-bridge according to claim 1.